[XXXVIth YEAR.] THE [No. 1794.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1781.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

MR. is the characteristic of folly to be obstinate in spite of experience; misfortunes cannot teach some men wisdom; and others, convinced of their error, have not candour to confess it. These remarks apply to those, who deny, that the rapid progressive depreciation of our state emissions is owing to the breach of public faith, and an *universal* want of confidence in the promises of our legislature. Will the adversaries to this position inform us to what other cause our paper money owes its present ruinous and disgraceful declension. To reform either public or private conduct, it is absolutely necessary to review and consider the actions, which produced the calamity. Every man acknowledges and feels the present distress, arising from our depreciated currency; some diversity of opinion may be entertained as to the cause, and I do not expect the authors of our misfortunes will admit the real one, or that the censure and consequence are justly imputable to them. A retrospection of all the misconduct of our rulers may not be necessary, and I have not leisure, or inclination, to expose to public view, the many and repeated acts of folly and injustice, which have concurred to involve this country in its present very alarming and most dishonourable situation; unable to aid our sister states, or to protect ourselves, from the vengeance of our enemies. We have no money, nor can we establish any substitute, because we wantonly violated our public faith, and sacrificed our honour to the prejudices and arts of a party, composed of the most ignorant and perversely obstinate of those entrusted with the conduct of our affairs. I shall not enquire into the motives which influenced congress to pass the resolution of the 18th of March, 1780, but it may not be improper to remember a few circumstances. In September, 1779, congress *unanimously*, in the most pointed terms, reprobated the idea of sinking their emissions contrary to the terms on which they issued, as originating from our enemies, and injurious to the faith and honour of the United States. They considered the suggestion as a *political heresy*, and declared, "that it was no more in their power to annihilate our money, than our independence, and that any act of theirs for either of those purposes would be null and void." Their own words will best expose their sentiments, say they, "We should pay an ill compliment to the understanding and honour of every true American, were we to adduce many arguments to shew the *baseness*, or bad policy of violating our national faith. A bankrupt faithless republic would be a novelty in the political world, and appear among reputable nations, like a common prostitute among chaste and respectable matrons. The pride of America revolts from the idea; her citizens know for what purpose these emissions were made, and have repeatedly plighted their faith for the redemption of them. They must therefore entertain a high opinion of American credulity, who suppose the people capable of believing, on due reflection, that all America will, against the *faith*, the *honour*, and the *interest*, of all America, be ever prevailed upon to countenance, support, or permit *so ruinous, so disgraceful a measure*. We are convinced that the efforts and arts of our enemies will not be wanting to draw us into this *humiliating and contemptible situation*; they will endeavour to force, or seduce us to commit this *unpardonable sin*, in order to subject us to the punishment due to it, and that we may thenceforth be a reproach, and a by-word among the nations. Apprised of these consequences, knowing the value of national character, and impressed with a due sense of the immutable laws of justice and honour, it is *impossible* that America should think without horror of *such an execrable deed*." In six months afterwards, ten states being represented in congress, the resolve of the 18th of March, 1780, passed. Five states voted in the affirmative, four in the negative, one was divided, and this state was not represented; and the state, whose delegates planned the measure, have applied, I am informed, every farthing of the money originally appropriated as a sinking fund for the new emission, to other purposes. Our assembly, meeting in a few days after the above recommendation of congress, took the same into consideration, and on the 5th of April, the house of delegates resolved, "That from the peculiar situation, and *extreme exigency* of our public affairs, the requisition ought to be complied with and carried into execution, as far as possible." As necessity alone could excuse the state in complying with the ill-timed and fatal plan of congress, the house of delegates grounded their consent to the measure, on that principle alone. The members of the then house of delegates, with great reluctance, assented to the desire of congress; they had no alternative, they conceived that they must either agree to the measure, or give up the chance of further prosecuting the war. It was impracticable, if not impossible, for this state to comply with its faith pledged jointly with the other states; no mode could be adopted for the redemption of the quota of this state of the continental emissions. As the old government, and the conventions, had emitted bills of credit, and this state had borrowed monies, on certificates, the house of delegates, inserted in the bill for calling out of circulation the continental emissions, a clause, "that as it was the indispensable duty of every state to preserve its public faith inviolate and sacred, and the honour, credit and safety of this republic required that entire confidence should be given to its promises, and the bills of credit emitted, and the certificates issued by its authority, that this state would, to the utmost of its power and ability, preserve and hold sacred its public faith, on all occasions, and especially with regard to its bills of credit, and the loan office certificates issued for money borrowed, which should be redeemed or sunk *by taxes or otherways*, without abatement or discount." This clause passed 35 votes to 4. The senate objected "to this pledging of the public faith; and declared it contrary to the welfare of the state, and subversive of justice," and in their message of May 20, 1780, urged a variety of reasons against it; and to catch the people by their supposed interest, they asserted, that the intention was to pay off the state currencies in gold or silver; and from a report, "that *some* persons were busily employed in buying up the convention money," they insinuated, that the design was "to enrich such adventurers at the expence of their constituents." The first was artfully calculated to alarm the feelings of the people, and to frighten them with the thoughts of an enormous debt, to be paid only in gold or silver. The emissions were not made on the terms of redeeming with gold or silver, and the promise did not extend beyond the original condition for the redemption, or hold out any other mode of sinking the convention, or other state currencies. The suggestion of "some persons buying up the convention money," was without any foundation, and intended to injure the public character of one of the delegates, by raising a suspicion that he was interested in the measure he supported, and to destroy the confidence reposed in him by the public. This illiberal and ungenerous behaviour of the senate was similar to their surmises, in their message in December 1779, that the confiscation of British property was urged by the house of delegates, "for the benefit of *speculators*, and to raise great emoluments to a *few* individuals, at a certain and heavy loss to the public." On this subject it might be deemed ill-natured to contrast the reasons alleged by the senate against confiscation, with their subsequent conduct, and therefore I forbear. However, the insinuations against particular members of the house of delegates, by the senate, had the desired effect; their *whispers* catched the cry, and opened in every tavern, and by the industry and art of a few noisy, ignorant men, so alarming a universal clamour was raised against the vote to support the public faith and credit.

At last October session (on 7th of November) a committee reported, "that the money emitted under resolves of convention, and acts of assembly under the old government, should be called out of circulation, at a rate of not less than 40 for 1." This report revived the contest, and after a negative by 23 to 19 to the proposal to refer the consideration thereof to the next session, on the question to concur with the report, the house being divided, 21 in the affirmative and 21 in the negative, it was determined in the negative by the speaker. Foiled in their favourite scheme, the party grew outrageous, and without any regard to good manners, or decency, three of them, two of the senate, and one of the house of delegates, in the most illiberal and vulgar language, abused and slandered the majority of the house of delegates, and falsely and basely arraigned the integrity, and imputed the conduct of some of the members, to interested and unworthy motives; and with unparalleled impudence, these three men, without three grains of sense among them, insolently called their adversaries not only scoundrels and villains, but *fools*; when no idea can be so humiliating or degrading as to compare their natural or acquired abilities with those of the gentlemen, they so arrogantly and unjustly traduced. Contrary to propriety and the practice of parliament, and the usage of the house of delegates under the old and new government, the subject was again resumed at the same session, and some members who voted against the report having gone home, and others having waved their opinion, the vote was carried to call out of circulation the money emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, and by resolves of convention, and to give in exchange one new *paper* dollar for forty dollars of those emissions.

Thus the breach of our public faith originated with the senate, and was carried in the house of delegates by a party, and every man who differed in opinion, and wished to maintain the public credit, was vilely slandered. We daily experience the consequences flowing from the advice of such miserable politicians. We must change our measures, and our rulers, or this country will be undone.

CENSOR.

LONDON, *February 6.*

IT is said that 15 of the fleet of transports, which sailed from Portsmouth for Corke, about the 20th ult. on board of which was part of the 49th regiment, were captured by a cutter of 16 guns, having a congreſs commiſſion, though the crew were moſtly Welch and Iriſh. The tranſports were immediately ranſomed, and are arrived at Corke.

Extract of an authentic letter from Verſailles, January 22.

"The Ruſſian miniſter has within theſe few days no leſs than five different diſpatches by couriers from his court. Yeſterday he received the laſt, and had a long conference with M. Maurepas, Neckar, and Vergennes. The talk here is that Ruſſia is determined, if poſſible, to heal the breaches between the ſtates and England, and prevent a general war throughout the continent."

Extract of a letter from Rotterdam, Jan. 19.

"The non-agreement of what are called here the two refractory provinces, is doubtleſs a great ſtop to thoſe neceſſary exertions ſo much to be wiſhed for at this time; nevertheleſs in thoſe which have agreed, on the grand queſtion of war with the Engliſh, all poſſible diligence is uſed in fitting out ſhips of war: at Amſterdam in particular nine ſhips of the line are now equipping, i. e. two of 70, four of 60, and three of 50 guns. Our navy is at preſent but ſmall, however 40 ſail will be added before the expiration of the preſent year, which will give it a degree of reſpectability at leaſt, if not reverence."

A court of enquiry is ſummoned to ſit at the horſe guards to determine on the conduct of governor Morris and lieut. col. Ethrington, in ſurrendering the iſland of St. Vincent to the French. The court will conſiſt of a lieutenant-general and two major-generals.

Extract of a letter from Briſtol, Feb. 4.

"The ſpirit of party is at preſent riſen here to a height ſcarce ever known before. Nothing but riots and tumults all the day, with different mobs parading the ſtreets, which, as they meet each other, raiſe terrible diſturbances, and encounter with a fury more becoming nations at open and declared war, than contending factions at an election. In one of theſe frays the White Lion inn was nearly demoliſhed, and much other miſchief done. Nay, to ſuch a pitch is the party arrived, that a friend of one of the candidates actually proceeded to the place of poll, with drums beating and the American colours diſplayed. In ſhort we know not what end things may come to at laſt. Pitched battles are fought between the oppoſite clubs in which many are killed. A gentleman, this moment aſſures me, that he ſaw ſix lying dead in the ſtreet."

Lord George Gordon, accompanied by his two brothers, ſet off yeſterday for the country, in order to enjoy a little relaxation, ſo neceſſary after his tedious and diſagreeable confinement.

NEW-LONDON, *May 11.*

The following was brought from the Weſt-Indies, by a veſſel which arrived here laſt week.

Copy of a letter from admiral Rodney to the marquis de Bouille.

I received the letters which your excellency did me the honour to write me; and I am ſorry to ſee a perſon of ſo high a rank and character as the marquis de Bouille, ſhould abaſe himſelf (on informations which he acknowledges to have received by indirect ways) ſo much as to make uſe of threats.

Britiſh admirals never fear and never make uſe of threats; they are reſponſible for their actions only to their king and country, and never have been reputed for having inſulted a declared enemy, theſe have always been treated with reſpect and humanity.

A perfidious people, wearing the maſk of friendſhip, traitors to their country, and rebelling againſt their king, deſerve no favour or conſideration, and they never ſhall have any from me. I am, &c.

ANSWER.

SIR,

I am ſenſible that a Britiſh admiral and a French general ought to be reſponſible for their conduct only to their king and country. Retaliation, during the war, is what I owe to each of them, (however cruel it may become) by the example you have given in St. Euſtatia, and ſhall make it a law to follow it ſtrictly.

Your excellency undoubtedly forgot, in your letter, that you was writing to a French general, whom the events of war have for this ſome time paſt, accuſtomed not to fear Britiſh inſolence.

I had the honour of writing to your excellency, that I ſhall exchange no more priſoners, they ſhall be all ſent (without exception) to France. I repeat to you once more, that you may act as you think proper with the flags of truce. To calm your fears on this ſubject, I ſhall ſend you no more. We will in future ſettle all our affairs * *a coup de canon*, and by that means avoid theſe polemic, tedious diſputes, which are more fit for ambaſſadors than ſoldiers.

* *Field of battle.*

A FEW copies of the LAWS of MARYLAND, paſſed laſt ſeſſion of aſſembly, may be had at the Printing-office. 1

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE, May 30, 1781.

NOTICE is hereby given, that this committee will ſit at the ſtadt-houſe from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 5 on each day during the preſent ſeſſion of aſſembly. 1 Bond

By order,
W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

FIFTY POUNDS STATE MONEY REWARD.

ON the ſecond day of April laſt, late at night, I loſt a new fifty foot tobacco-houſe, full of tobacco, between ſeventeen and eighteen thouſand weight, entirely conſumed by fire. This being the ſecond tobacco-houſe I have loſt by fire, under ſuſpicious circumſtances and ſuggeſtions, particularly the laſt, any perſon that will diſcover the perpetrator or perpetrators of this flagitious, atrocious, and diabolical act, ſhall receive the above reward. I am conſtrained and propelled, by motives very great, to adverti ſe a reward. At this way of procedure, it is too obvious, a man may have all his property deſtroyed by wicked incendiaries. Wretches callous and inſenſible to every feeling, there is no knowing where, or when they may ſtop, for baſe wicked minds, and perſons of vile diſpoſitions, do not readily liſten to the checks of conſcience, but take a pleaſure in making their neighbours as calamitous as poſſible, inſtigated by vindictive and infernal motives. An incendiary is a character of a very black die; it is a pity ſuch monſters in human ſhape ſhould be permitted to live; the guilty wretch ought always to conſider the halter as ſuſpended over his head; it is a death too good.

1 B. FENDALL, jun.

TAKEN up as a ſtray, by Hamton Robinſon, near Magothy mill, in Anne-Arundel county, a black MARE, about 14 hands and a half high, had on, when taken up, 3 ſhoes and a half, appears to be about 14 years old, trots, paces, and gallops, is docked, has a ſtar on her forehead and a ſwitch tail, but no perceivable brand. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges. 1 w3

SILVER-TAIL,

STANDS at Tulip-hill, and will cover at two guineas the ſeaſon, or ſtate money at the exchange, and a dollar to the groom; the money to be paid before the mares are taken away.

Silver-tail was got by Old Tanner, his dam by Selim, his grand-dam by Panton's Arabian, his great grand-dam by the Godolphin Arabian, his great-great-grand-dam was Mr. Panton's famous Witherington mare. He is a fine bay, fifteen and a half hands high, with great bone, ſtrength and beauty. Good paſturage for mares at one dollar a week. 3 X

May 22, 1781.

THE ſubſcriber intends to petition the general aſſembly, after this notice ſhall have been publiſhed eight weeks, for a power to ſell an undivided moiety of the lot and tanyard in the city of Annapolis, which belonged to her late huſband Joſeph Selby, and by him deviſed to her during life, and after her deceaſe, to her daughter, who is now an infant.

2 ANNE SELBY, executrix of Joſeph Selby, deceaſed.

April 21, 1781.

By virtue of an act of the aſſembly of Maryland, paſſed in December 1773, will be expoſed to ſale, by public vendue, on Monday the 11th day of June next, for gold or ſilver,

THAT ſituation for any kind of water-works, known by the name of the CURTIS'S CREEK FURNACE, lying on the head of the ſaid creek, in Anne-Arundel county, about 12 miles by water from Baltimore-town, or ſeven miles by land, with ſundry tracts of land, containing 453⅜ acres more or leſs. There are, where the furnace ſtands, a large ſtone dwelling houſe, kitchen, meat houſe, ſmith's ſhop, and mill houſe, all of which, with the furnace, may be made very good. The lands moſtly lie on and contiguous to Curtis's, Marley, and Stony creeks, and abound with wood and timber, pine, oak, hiccory, and cheſnut. Craft for the reception of wood, &c. go up all thoſe creeks. About 100 acres are cleared around the furnace, and two or three ſmall tenements on different tracts rented by the year. A plot of the whole may be ſeen at the coffee-houſe in Baltimore, and the lands ſhewn on application to Mr. Thomas Cromwell near the furnace. Sale to begin at the dwelling houſe at 10 o'clock a. m.

CHARLES RIDGELY,
MICHAEL PUE,
10 W. GOODWIN, 5
W. BUCHANAN,
ELEANOR DORSEY.

N. B. The ſale is deferred, on account of its not having been advertiſed ſix weeks ſucceſſively in the Maryland Gazette, agreeable to law.

Office for the preſervation and ſale of forfeited eſtates, April 9, 1781.

To be SOLD at VENDUE,

THE two manors of Beaver-dam and Chaptico, lying in St. Mary's county, in parcels as tenanted to the preſent poſſeſſors, or otherwiſe, as may be moſt conducive to the purpoſe intended. Many of the leaſes are expired, ſeveral for the lives of perſons yet in being, and others for terms of years yet unexpired. The ſale of Beaver-dam will begin at Leonard-town on Tueſday the 29th of May next, and of Chaptico on the Monday following. One fifth of the ſum bid to be paid in ſpecie, within three weeks from the day of ſale, the remainder in bills of credit of the new emiſſion, one half in two months, and the other half in four months from the day of ſale.

By order, G. DUVALL, cl.

N. B. The ſale of Beaver-dam manor above mentioned is poſtponed until Tueſday the 26th of June, and of Chaptico until the Monday following. 6 G. D.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the POST-OFFICE.